

Mr Asplund

[M I N U T E S

OF THE

MEREDITH

ASSOCIATION, *(New*

Hampshire)

HELD AT

SANDBORNTON,

SEPTEMBER 13-14, 1902

Printed by GEO. HOUGH, at Concord, for
the Association.

IV

[1792.]

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2. A Moderator and Clerk were chosen.

3. Letters were read from the several Churches, and the following list of the numbers

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There are 533 members in
~~the~~ this congregation 54 of
whom were baptized in a
course of 7 years which I
added to the church at
Meredith.



➡ **Note—**

Meredith Association.

3

Note—Elders' names are inserted in *Italic*.

Churches.

Messengers.

Add.

Dis.

Exclu.

Died.

Num.

Sandwich,	{ <i>Jacob Fuell,</i> <i>Thomas Colby.</i>	3	0	0	0	47
New Holder- ness,	{ <i>Jeremiah Ward,</i> <i>Tho. Crawford.</i>	0	0	0	0	20
Meredith and Sandbornton,	{ <i>Nicholas Folsom,</i> <i>William Chase,</i> <i>David Philbrook,</i> <i>Abraham Swain,</i> <i>John Mead.</i>	54	0	0	0	109
Rumney,	{ <i>Cotton Haines,</i> <i>William Webber,</i> <i>Elisha Bean,</i> <i>Nath'l Clefford.</i>	7	34	5	0	107
Corinth and Vershire,	{ <i>Thomas West,</i> <i>Nathaniel Ayers.</i>	1	0	1	1	43
Landaff and Bradford,	{ <i>Thomas Rowell,</i> <i>Aaron Bailey,</i> <i>John Page,</i> <i>Eben'r Olmsted.</i>	13	0	0	0	89
Dartmouth,	(<i>Daniel Brainerd.</i>	2	0	0	0	16
Wentworth,	{ <i>Joshua Merril,</i> <i>Benjamin Cotton.</i>	0	0	0	0	37
Cockermouth	{ <i>Thomas Ross,</i> <i>Samuel Hazelton.</i>	0	0	0	0	65

80 34 6 1 583

The

Meredith Association.

[The two last mentioned Churches added this session.

4. [Received] ^{By} Letters and Messengers from [Corresponding Associations, viz.] *New Hampshire and Woodstock*; [by which] we received some very agreeable intelligence.

5. Adjourned until to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

Thursday, September 14.

6. Met [accordingly.]

7. Read and accepted the Circular Letter prepared by Brother *Brainard*.

8. Read and accepted the Correspondent prepared by Brother *Juell*.

9. Appointed Brother *Brainard* to prepare our Circular Letter against our next.

10. Elder *Haines*, a Correspondent Letter against our next.

11. Chose Messengers to the sister Associations—to the *Woodstock*, Elder *Nicholas Folsom*, Deacon *William Chase*—to the *New Hampshire*, Elders *Ward* and *Juell*, and Brother *Brainard*.

12. Appointed Elder *Haines* to superintend the Printing of the Minutes.

13. Notwithstanding the [recommendation] ^{ed again} in our Minutes of the last year, ^{that} to the Ministers of our Association, [to] exchange their gifts as opportunity [might] present, we find our wishes herein have not been effected; therefore we recommend to the several Churches to grant their Elders such assistance as may enable them to comply with our desires herein.

14. Our next Association to be holden at *Sandwich*, the second *Wednesday* in *September*, 1793, at two o'clock, P. M.

15. Concluded by Prayer.

CIRCULAR

carry
up / on Church Order and
government.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

BELoved BRETHREN,

AS the late adopted Plan of our Association requires us, at the close of every meeting, to address the Churches, by a Circular Letter accompanying the Minutes of our Proceedings; we conceive that our Brethren may, with propriety, expect something of this kind to succeed our present interview. As a subject of their entertainment, on this occasion, we are induced to make some reflections on Church Order and Government.

The wise Author of our being has so constituted our natures, that we are dependant on one-another. All classes and degrees of men in the world find a real advantage from society, which contributes to the interest of every individual; so that the King on his throne is dependant on his subjects for upholding his crown, and the beggar on his dung-hill is not without his merit in a share of his acknowledgment: Even so the members of Christ's visible body are as links, whose connections with each other make one indissoluble chain, in which each member supplies his place; whereby the benefit of such union becomes mutual—so that the head cannot say to the foot, *I have no need of thee.*

The kingdom of Christ, in the world, consists of living and active subjects, situate from all the kingdoms of the world, by the sovereign grace of God alone, and are said to be a spiritual house, built up of lively stones, whose employment is to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ: This seems to express or contain the duty of the Church to God, by worshipping him in spirit and in truth; their duty to man is also briefly employed, in doing to others as they would be willing to receive from them again.

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When we consider our natural opposition to these duties, the seeds of sin, lust, and envy, still remaining in our hearts, whose tendency is to prejudice our minds against religion, we conceive it absolutely necessary to be under the direction of a code of laws whose tenour expresses the holy disposition of the Law-Giver, as well as the harmony and peace of the kingdom. Such are the laws of Christ to his Church.

In order that a due attention be paid to this authority, and the breach of it treated with a proper resentment, it becomes necessary that Christians combine together in Church order, put themselves under the watch and care of each other, administer Gospel ordinances, execute the laws of Christ on offenders, and encourage peace and charity.

By a due implantation of these principles of virtue, Christ is seated on the throne of his kingdom, by the full consent and choice of his subjects; and they possessed with a submissive and obedient temper, which is a requisite qualification in all who become heirs of the promises of grace, and delight in the employment of religion.

The great injunction of the Gospel, is Love; this renders the Church Godlike, for God is Love; this is the foundation of the temple of God, the rock on which the building stands, firm and immoveable, altho assaulted by hell itself.

A Church thus established, enjoys peace and happiness amidst the greatest cares; this induces every member to seek the good of others, and so contribute to the general harmony, by watching, praying, admonishing, exhorting, encouraging, and bearing one another's burdens, whereby they fulfil the law of Christ.

But the blessings which flow to mankind through this medium, are not limited or confined to the Church only; for they are the light of the world—the world hereby are convinced of the realities of religion,

religion, and are taught that these are indeed the disciples of Christ, that religion consists not merely in an outward form of dull devotion, but a divine and living principle in the soul, which makes the duties of religion desirable and pleasant.

Then let all who sustain the character of Christians, exert themselves in their Master's cause, by living in the constant performance of the duties of christianity; having their loins girt with truth, their lamps trimmed and burning, and they as servants waiting for the coming of their Lord.

Our present meeting has been attended with some special marks of the divine favour. The accounts the Churches give of their standing, is such, as causes us to believe they are built on the rock of ages, on which they will stand firm, notwithstanding the tumultuous raging of all the storms of opposition.

We have such accounts from distant places, as are matter of comfort and joy, and induce us to believe that the happy day is near at hand, when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord Christ.

We have at this meeting experienced the happiness of Brethren dwelling together in Love: unity of sentiment has prevailed among us; while peace has spread its olive-branches around the little circle, whereby our souls are led to desire that we may dwell in the house of the Lord, all the days of our life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and inquire in his temple.

And now to conclude, let all the sons of Zion pray for her prosperity, that God would shower down of his grace, and fill the whole earth with his glory. Amen.

COTTON HAINES, Moderator.

Attest. DANIEL BRAINERD, Clerk.

religion, and are taught that there are indeed the
children of God, that religion can be a blessing
in an outward form of duty, but a blessing
and that religion is the form which makes the
heart of man a better place.
Then let all who are in the world of God
know, that there is in that world a world
living in the outward form of duty, but a
blessing; having their hearts full with
their own happiness and blessing, and they are
wanting of the world, as a world.
Our own happiness and blessing is the same
for all of the world. The happiness
the Church give of their happiness is such, as
causes us to believe they are built on the rock of
ages, on which they will stand firm, notwithstanding
in the turning of the world of op-
position.

We have such accounts from distant places, as
are matter of comfort and joy, and indeed we
believe that the happy day is near at hand, when
the kingdom of this world shall become the king-
dom of our Lord Christ.

We have at this time experienced the happy-
ness of brethren who are in love: truly
of love has been the love, while we
have spread the olive branch, and the olive oil
etc, whereby our love shall be that we may
draw in the hearts of all, and all the days of our
life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and rejoice
in his name.

And now to conclude, let all the sons of Zion
pray for her prosperity, that God would shower
down of his grace, and fill the whole earth with
his glory. Amen.



COTTON HAINES, Modest
AND, DANIEL BARNARD, Clerk.

